



The Office of Legislator Al Krupski

Suffolk County Legislator

1st District

For Immediate Release:
December 14, 2015

Contact: Gwynn Schroeder
631.852.3200

Legislator Al Krupski Calls on Community to Help Protect Against Wildfires

Public Input Needed to Develop Mitigation Plan

Residents of Ridge, Manorville and Calverton have the opportunity to provide input on the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), an initiative of the Central Pine Barrens Commission, public land management agencies, and the Ridge and Manorville Fire Departments. The Central Pine Barrens has been identified as “the area with the greatest potential risk for damage to and loss of property from wildland fire in all of New York State” according to the John Pavacic, the Commission’s Executive Director.

Legislator Krupski, who is a member of the Brookhaven National Lab’s Community Advisory Council (CAC) and whose district includes Ridge, Manorville and Calverton, participated in a discussion on the development and implementation of a CWPP at a recent CAC meeting.

“We’ve experienced devastating fires in the Pine Barrens and we know we are at risk for more,” said Legislator Krupski. “The development of a CWPP is vital to the health and safety of residents and to the protection of private property and our critically important natural resources. Community input is invaluable because these are the people most familiar with conditions within their own neighborhoods and they can identify potential risks and help prioritize the mitigation of those risks. I encourage anyone, including those who have knowledge of or an interest in the future of the Pine Barrens or wildfire prevention, to get involved.”

CWPPs are a result of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) 2003 which gave local communities a voice in how federal lands are managed in regards to reducing hazardous fuels in woodlands and how federal funding is utilized to achieve this goal. Once completed, the CWPP can be a valuable tool in obtaining aid for wildfire prevention. It also has the potential to be utilized as a template for developing CWPPs in other areas within the Pine Barrens region.

The next public meeting is expected to be scheduled for some time in February. In the meantime, residents of Ridge, Manorville and Calverton are encouraged to participate in a survey about community preparedness by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N2DZGCP>.

For more information about the Ridge-Manorville-Calverton CWPP, please contact Judy Jakobsen at the Central Pine Barrens Commission by emailing jjakobsen@pb.state.ny.us or calling 631-288-1079. Visit

the Ridge-Manorville-Calverton Community Wildfire Protection Plan on Facebook and share this page with other community residents.

###